



# Mishawaka Communicator



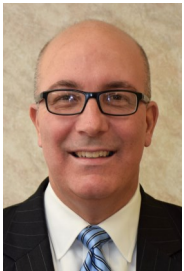
*Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.*

Dave Wood, Mayor

[www.mishawaka.in.gov](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov)

February 2020

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



### A Tribute to Mayor Robert C. Beutter

This communicator article is dedicated to former Mayor Robert C. Beutter. Known affectionately to many as "Mayor Bob", he served the City of Mishawaka for most of his life including as the longest serving Mayor in the City's history, having served for five terms from 1984-2003. Mayor Bob was a Mishawaka icon that leaves behind a great legacy in the Princess City.

Bob was a great family man, devoted husband and father. Bob could have gone anywhere and been successful and he would have made any community he lived in better, but he could never leave his beloved hometown. We are eternally grateful that he stayed. Indeed, Bob could have been many things: successful businessman, high-powered attorney, stand-up comedian, Governor - anything he set his mind to. But his calling was much bigger-the highest and best title in all politics: MAYOR of the Princess City, MAYOR of the Best Hometown in America.

Bob was THE quintessential mayor, the epitome of what a mayor should be. He possessed the greatest qualification for the job; a true love and passion for the city and citizens whom he served. In his role as mayor, he led Mishawaka from a small town to one of the fastest growing cities in the state. Though he would never claim to be a politician, he was masterful in accomplishing his agenda of providing great city services, diversifying the economy during a time of uncertainty and transition. That is because he was first and foremost, a citizen. He approached the job as a citizen who expected great services, so he surrounded himself with a great team of public servants to provide them. Politically, he was a Republican although he got elected in a Democratic city. That is because he put city over party; Mishawaka first, as it should be.

I'll never forget the first time I met Mayor Bob. I was in my mid 20's and was attending a meeting with my grandfather who was a Uniroyal retiree. Uniroyal had closed after operating continually onsite for over 100 years. The plant, in the heart of our downtown, was not only our largest employer, it was our biggest taxpayer and engrained in the fabric of our city. The company had closed and left Mishawaka with a massive tax burden, 50+ abandoned buildings, an industrial wasteland and worse, left Mishawaka families without jobs and income. The large crowd was obviously concerned about their futures and the future of Mishawaka. It was THE pivotal moment in the history of Mishawaka. I remember the plans that were shared by Mayor Bob and future mayor Jeff Rea to remove the buildings in the heart of the downtown then add a park and riverwalk. I also remember the criticism. It went something like this: "You mean to tell me we just lost our major employer and livelihoods and you want to tear down our factories and build a sidewalk? What, are you crazy?" But Mayor Bob knew the seriousness of the moment. He knew

*(cont'd on next page)*

## Enjoy Benefits of Comfort Food!

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

Even though comfort foods are often labeled as unhealthy, some are healthy and highly nutritious. So there's no reason to avoid them and the therapeutic qualities they can deliver.

Chicken soup, for example, is a go-to food for some people when they have a cold. For good reason. It has vitamins, minerals and some fat. The warm broth hydrates and can help ease congestion. The onions, celery and garlic have powerful antioxidants, which support immune function. The chicken provides protein that also supports immune function. The noodles are soft and easily digested. They are rich with carbohydrates that also help you feel full and satisfied.

If you have digestive problems or food intolerances, you can modify ingredients while still retaining its comfort food properties. You can use gluten-free noodles if you have celiac disease and non-celiac gluten sensitivity. Replace the onions and garlic with carrots and bean sprouts if you have irritable bowel syndrome or gas and bloating.

To learn more, visit [ThisCounts.org](http://ThisCounts.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 14 Valentine's Couples Skate  
(Merrifield Ice Rink)
- Feb 28 Daddy/Daughter Dance (Battell Center)
- Feb 29 Mother/Son Dance (Battell Center)
- Mar 6 Glow Dodgeball (Battell Center)
- Mar 7 "Say Yes to the Dress" Prom Edition (Battell Center)

### Unity Gardens Educational Series

**Saturdays: 2:00-3:30pm**  
(Battell Center)

- Feb 8 All About Tomatoes
- Feb 11 Growing Mushrooms (Tues 6:30pm)
- Feb 15 Inviting Bees Into Your Garden
- Feb 22 Container & Small Space Gardening
- Feb 29 Caring for Your Garden

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Free tax prep & e-filing assistance for working families and individuals in St. Joseph County.

**CALL 2-1-1 to schedule your appointment**

### ONLINE ACCESS

- <http://mishawaka.in.gov>
- <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksand recreation>
- <https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor>
- <https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/>

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

that Uniroyal wasn't coming back, and he was determined to move Mishawaka forward because he wasn't about to sit back, watch his hometown slowly die while he managed the decline. It was big vision and bold leadership time.

I recall Mayor Bob instantly took command of the room. He quickly disarmed a contentious crowd with his legendary humor. He gained the full trust and confidence of everyone there and got the consensus he needed to proceed. Then, before he left, he made his rounds and left no hand unshaken (another Mayor Bob trait). Now, he didn't know me at the time but that made a tremendous impact on me and inspired this kid just getting started, to stay in his hometown, to love it and help build its future. Of course, Mayor Bob followed through on his plans in his typical showman style. He didn't just demolish the buildings, he blew them up, making national news in the process. He then moved Heaven and Earth to clear the site and the rest is history. Look around today. Mishawaka is thriving, Mishawaka is strong. That is only possible because of Bob Beutter's transformative leadership in Mishawaka's critical time of need.

Mayor Bob focused on the fundamentals and did them well. Guided by values important to him - faith, family, honesty and integrity. He executed the duties of his office with dignity and honor and gained not only the confidence and support of our citizens but recognition and respect from far beyond our borders. Mayor Bob remained a valued presence at City Hall long after his retirement where he served as a part-time staff attorney. Everyone greatly benefited from his steady presence. The staff valued his advice and I valued his influence on our staff. To his last days, Bob's life was instructive. As he aged, he taught us how to handle adversity head-on just the way he lived his life, with dignity, humor and kindness.

Mayor Bob's legacy will live on. It runs deep and will last generations because of the multitudes that he touched and the future leaders he developed. Loving husband and father, loyal friend, mentor, and coach to hundreds of public servants, shepherd to his flock, and a citizen who left his home, neighborhood, city and country better than he found them. What could be better than that?

Yours in Mishawaka,

*Mayor Dave Wood*



### Mishawaka Parks - Calling All Vendors!

Interested in displaying your homemade arts & crafts at an event? Want to promote a non-profit organization, retail or commercial business? Vendor space is now available for the 2020 calendar year for special events at prime park locations throughout the City! Your product, name or message will be noticed by thousands of people attending these events.

Visit <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parks/vendor-apps> to download the vendor application packet.

For any questions or to obtain more information, contact the Mishawaka Parks Department at (574) 258-1664 or via email at [parks@mishawaka.in.gov](mailto:parks@mishawaka.in.gov).

*Vending opportunities are offered on a first-come, first-served basis and require booth payment in full to reserve the space.*

